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Water Shortages Confronting Agriculture

Governor Nixon declared a state of emergency for the state of Missouri following the United States Department of Agriculture declaring an agricultural disaster in all 114 counties of Missouri. To that end executive order 12-08 was given on July 23, 2012 in response to the severe weather pattern that has caused extreme drought in many areas of Missouri.

This order addresses the lack of water supplies available for livestock and crops at this time and “authorizes the State Soil and Water Districts Commission to implement an emergency cost share program for water source development and/or water distribution practices to assist landowners engaged in livestock or crop production adversely impacted by the current drought. This emergency cost-share program shall be specifically directed to address water challenges caused by the current drought where implementation of a water source development or water distribution practice would produce an immediate material benefit.”

This executive order is targeted at alleviating immediate water shortages confronting agriculture. To be eligible the following must be satisfied: (1) landowner applicant must be engaged in livestock or crop production and experiencing a water shortage caused directly by the current drought conditions; (2) this shortage is severely impacting the well-being of livestock or crop production; (3) have a proposed water source development or distribution practice to produce an immediate material benefit for the livestock or crop production; and (4) the proposal will not adversely affect the public water supply.

Applications must be submitted within fourteen days of July 23, 2012 and can be submitted to the local soil and water district. All projects approved under this emergency cost-share program shall be completed within sixty days of July 23, 2012 at a cost-share rate of ninety percent (90%) of the costs of eligible practices under this emergency cost-share program. The maximum cost-share award under this program is \$20,000. This Order shall terminate on October 1, 2012, unless extended in whole or in part.

Information on your county soil and water conservation district is listed below. Contact your local office for assistance.

Dunklin County Soil and Water Conservation District; 704 N. Bypass, Kennett, MO 63857; 573-888-2480x3
Pemiscot County Soil and Water Conservation District; 1206 Hwy 84 W, Caruthersville, MO 63830; 573-333-0751x3
New Madrid County Soil and Water Conservation District; 495C Hwy 61, New Madrid, MO 63869; 573-748-5245
Stoddard County Soil and Water Conservation District; 18450 Ridgeview Ln., Dexter, MO 63841; 573-624-5939
Butler County Soil and Water Conservation District; 4327 Hwy. 67 N., Poplar Bluff, MO 63901; 573-785-6160

For a copy of executive order 12-08 go to <http://governor.mo.gov/orders/2012/12-08.htm>.

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